



Joe Sanfelippo



Milwaukee County Supervisor - 17th District

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January 2011

Committee Assignments:

Parks, Energy and Environment (Vice-Chair) • Judiciary, Safety and General Services • Personnel

Dear Friends and Constituents,

Another year is behind us. My dad always said the older you get the faster the time goes. I now see what he meant.

2011 is going to be a very interesting year in Milwaukee County Government as we will elect a new County Executive for the first time since 2002. Governor-Elect Walker took over the County Executive's office during a very tumultuous time and did a great job restoring the integrity of that office. I look forward to him serving as our next Governor.

Special elections will also be held to replace Supervisor Coggs who was elected to the State Assembly and Supervisor Larson who was elected to the State Senate. Although we may have had different political philosophies, I enjoyed working with both of these colleagues. Supervisor Coggs Chaired the Finance and Audit Committee with openness and professionalism, and I respect Supervisor Larson's dedication to working towards the causes he believes in. I wish both of them good luck in their new positions.

Housekeeping Item

Last month in my article about the 2011 budget, I mentioned that the non-represented employees at the County will pay 4% of their wages into the pension fund. This contribution will be phased in throughout the year. I failed to mention that those same employees will be getting a 2% increase also to be phased in throughout the year. You may recall that County Executive Walker proposed a 5% employee contribution without any pay increase. I supported Walker's version and voted against the Board's plan.

I also reported that union employees who have not accepted the same benefit changes imposed on the non-represented employees would receive 26 furlough days and some would be laid off in order to achieve similar savings. I did not point out, however, that not all employees have to take mandatory furlough days. Deputy Sheriffs, court staff, medical staff and others in "24 hour essential emergency positions" are exempt from furlough days. If every County employee had to participate, the number of mandatory furlough days would be much less.

This information was not intentionally left out. Because I feel people don't want to hear from a politician any more than they absolutely have to, I try to be as brief as possible when writing these letters. However, I may have been a bit too brief in that story. Thanks for pointing it out, Nancy!



County Pension Reforms



In the December E-News, I told you that I would focus my attention in 2011 on putting forth some of the proposals from my [Blueprint for Restoring Financial Solvency in Milwaukee County Government](#).

In December, I introduced a [resolution](#) for the Board to consider that proposes capping our current defined benefit pension plan for employees and transforming to a defined contribution plan. Under this proposed change, the County would no longer pay a defined benefit to employees after retirement. In its place, the County would pay a set amount into an account while the employee is active. This is similar to the 401(k) plan that has become the standard form of retirement plans in the private sector.

A report by the County's actuary has shown that modernizing our pension program in this fashion will save the County more than \$267 million in just the first ten years. The phased in contribution scale I have included in my resolution will bump that savings up to over \$300 million for taxpayers. County employees will benefit because making County jobs more affordable is the best way to protect them. Also, like a 401(k), these plans are portable so if an employee decides to move to another job, the account goes right along with them.

I was very pleased that the Personnel Committee has agreed to look into this proposal by referring the resolution to our Long Range Strategic Planning Committee, the Employee Benefits Workgroup and our legal and labor relations departments. Opportunities to realize savings of this magnitude don't come along every day so it is critical that we give the idea in-depth consideration. I will keep you posted on future developments on this as they occur.


Special Committee to Study Construction of a New Mental Health Hospital

In November, the County Board passed a [resolution](#) authorizing the formation of a Special Committee to look into certain issues at our Behavioral Health Facility on the County Grounds. The resolution specifically directs:

- 1) Examine current and potential operating revenues and evaluate the merits of locating some functions of BHD, such as the nursing home and outpatient services at sites other than the County Grounds in a manner that is more integrated with the community and perhaps more cost effective.
- 2) Utilize, reassess and update previously gathered information regarding BHD space needs to provide a preliminary cost analysis of the cost to build a new facility on the County Grounds.
- 3) Provide possible locations on the County Grounds for a new facility.
- 4) Recommend other funding sources and a timeline for this project.
- 5) Obtain and analyze other information as requested by members of the Special Committee.

Chairman Holloway has appointed me Chairman of the Committee, which will be made up of six County Board Supervisors, and has given us a June 1, 2011 deadline for a report back to the full Board.

We have many challenges to overcome in providing mental health care to the community, and I am looking forward to working with the five other members of the committee on this important task.





County Executive-What's Next?

Many of you have asked me what is going to happen over the next several months now that Scott Walker is no longer our County Executive.

County Board Chairman Lee Holloway will serve as County Executive for thirty days, until January 28, 2011. During that time, he will nominate an Interim County Executive, who will have to be approved by a majority of the County Board, to fill the office until a new County Executive is elected in April.

The person elected in April will only be filling out the remainder of Scott Walker's term and will have to run for a full 4 year term again in April of 2012 along with the rest of the Board.

In the next sixteen months, we could have as many as four different County Executives. If you're a political junky like me, it is going to be an exciting time!

Tobogganing at Whitnall Park

Bring friends and family to speed down the iced track at Whitnall Park's Winter Sports Area!

2011 Hours

Closed Monday-Thursday

Friday, 4:00-8:00pm

Saturday, 12:00-8:00pm

Sunday, 12:00-6:00pm

Unlimited rides \$7 per toboggan
per hour



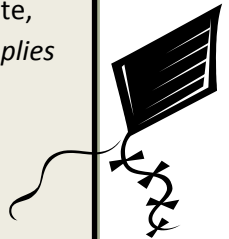
New Year's Day Kite Festival

This **free** event for all ages includes hot chocolate, coffee and snacks from Caribou Coffee, *while supplies last.*

11:00am-5:00pm

Veterans Park on Milwaukee's Lakefront

Visit www.giftofwings.com for
more information



Free Day at the Milwaukee County Zoo

for Milwaukee County Residents with I.D.

Saturday, January 8, 2011

9:30am-4:30pm

10001 West Blue Mound Road
Milwaukee, 53226